

REMARKS

Receipt of the Advisory Action mailed October 8, 2008 is acknowledged. Claims 1 and 14 have been amended. Support for the amendment can be found at page 6, lines 7-16 of the original specification. Upon entry of the amendment, claims 1, 3-5, 7-11, 14-19, 35-43 and 46-48 will be pending. Entry of the amendment accompanying the enclosed RCE is respectfully requested.

Upon allowance of claims 1, 3-5, 7-11 and 14, rejoinder of combination claims listed in Groups II, IV, V and VI is requested as required in the last paragraph of MPEP 806.05(c) ("If a claim to B_{sp} is determined to be allowable, any claims requiring B_{sp}, including any combination claims of the format AB_{sp}, must be considered for rejoinder"). Also, upon the allowance of claims 1, 3-5, 7-11 and 14, rejoinder of the process claims is respectfully requested pursuant to MPEP 821.04(b). Applicants reserve the right to file additional divisional application directed to the non-elected claims.

Claims 1, 8-11 and 14 stand rejected under 35 USC § 102(b) as being anticipated by Gordon Hoare (GB 2 118 155) ("GB '115"). Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

The Examiner at page 4 of the Office Action continues to take the position that the broadest reasonable interpretation of the claims provides the rationale for interpreting the female threads, i.e., those threads that receive the threads on grub screw 22 as having an opposite threaded design of the male threads 15 on closure member 3 of GB '115. Applicants respectfully continue to traverse this position for reasons of record.

However, in the interest of furthering prosecution, applicants have amended the claims as shown above to more particularly point out the claimed invention. Amended claims 1 and 14 now recite that the first set of threads has a right or left

hand direction, and the second set of threads has a right hand direction or a left hand direction which is opposite to that of the first set of threads. Applicant submits that GB '115 fails to teach or render obvious the claimed configuration. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

Claims 3-5, 7, 46 and 48 stand rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over by Gordon Hoare (GB 2 118 155) ("GB '115") in view of Daubert et al. Applicants submit that claims 3-5, 7, 46 and 48 are allowable for the same reasons set forth above with respect to claims 1, 8-11 and 14. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, applicants submit that the application is in condition for allowance. A notice to that effect is earnestly solicited. If the Examiner has any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees, which may be required, or credit any overpayment to Account No. 10-0750/CDS5015/TJB.

Respectfully submitted,

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